

THE JOURNAL



OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Number 30

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PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Founded 1915

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P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

January 22, 1992. Wednesday at 8:00 PM:

The Redfield Hoard

SPEAKER: DON BURNS

February 26, 1992. Wednesday at 8:00 PM:

History of the U.S. Peace Dollar

SPEAKER: DAVID W. LANGE

March 25, 1992. Wednesday at 8:00 PM:

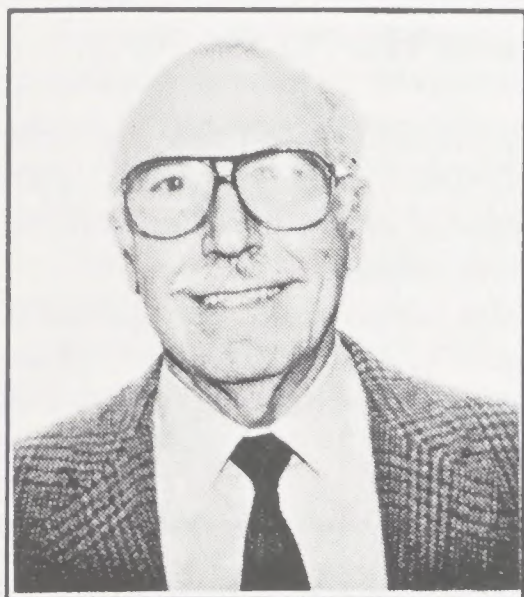
Wooden Money

SPEAKER: GORDON DONNELL

Monthly meetings are held on the 4TH Wednesday of each month at
The Knights of Columbus Hall in San Francisco
2800 Taraval Avenue (1 BLOCK WEST OF SUNSET). *Guests are invited.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Paul D. Holtzman



It's quite an honor for me to be asked to serve as the PCNS president and to acknowledge the excellent leadership the Society has received for the past two years from President Rick Webster and all the other officers, governors and committee members. I am sitting here looking at the list of presidents and fellows over the past 76 years—with awe. PCNS members have contributed a great deal to both knowledge and enjoyment of numismatics.

Numismatic knowledge has developed from centuries of remarkable research and scholarship. I am often amazed and delighted by the ability of some researchers to relate numismatic details to recorded political and military events. Even more exciting are the examples of history recorded only on the coins of eras long past and discovered by numismatic researchers.

Of course, the moneyers have recorded other kinds of history as well: natural history, maritime history, the history of art, even numismatic history, to say nothing of the history of communication, both verbal and nonverbal.

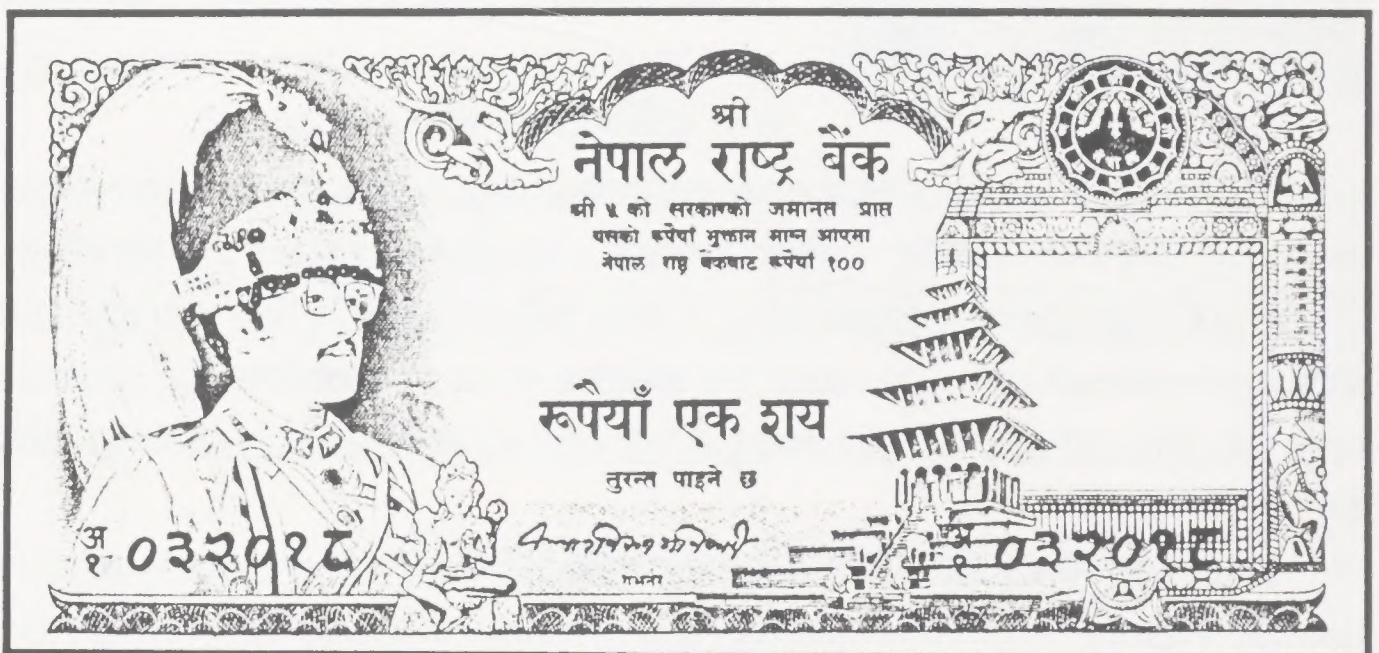
I look forward to another year of learning much, much more from PCNS members at our meetings and in *The Journal*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D. Holtzman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the main body of text.

King Birendra Bir Bikram and Nepal's 100-Rupee Note

The hereditary king of Nepal, Birendra Bir Bikram Shahi Deva, is the focal point of this country's 100-rupee note. This note is primarily green in color with light purple hues on the front and dark orange on the back. It measures 70 by 146 mm and utilizes a security thread and watermark as anti-counterfeiting measures.

King Birendra is wearing the plumed crown, the nation's ultimate symbol of authority. This crown contains millions of dollars' worth of pearls, diamonds, rubies and emeralds, with the plumes of the greater bird of paradise billowing above and behind.



The center of the bill shows the Himalayan Mountains, Nepal's northern border with Tibet. Acting as a boundary between this picture and the watermark is the Nyatapola Temple, Nepal's tallest. The temple's five roofs are supported by carved wooden columns and are balanced on five receding plinths. A central stairway is flanked by a pair of guardians on each plinth. The building was dedicated to the temple's main deity, Siddhi Lakshmi, in 1702.

The reverse focuses on the powerful rhinoceros, a figure which has been on all 100-rupee issues (with one exception-Pick 19) since Nepal began using paper money in 1951. The left side of the bill shows the plumed crown as the watermark, and the right side holds arms, which includes the Himalayas, crossed khukris (daggers) and the plumed crown.

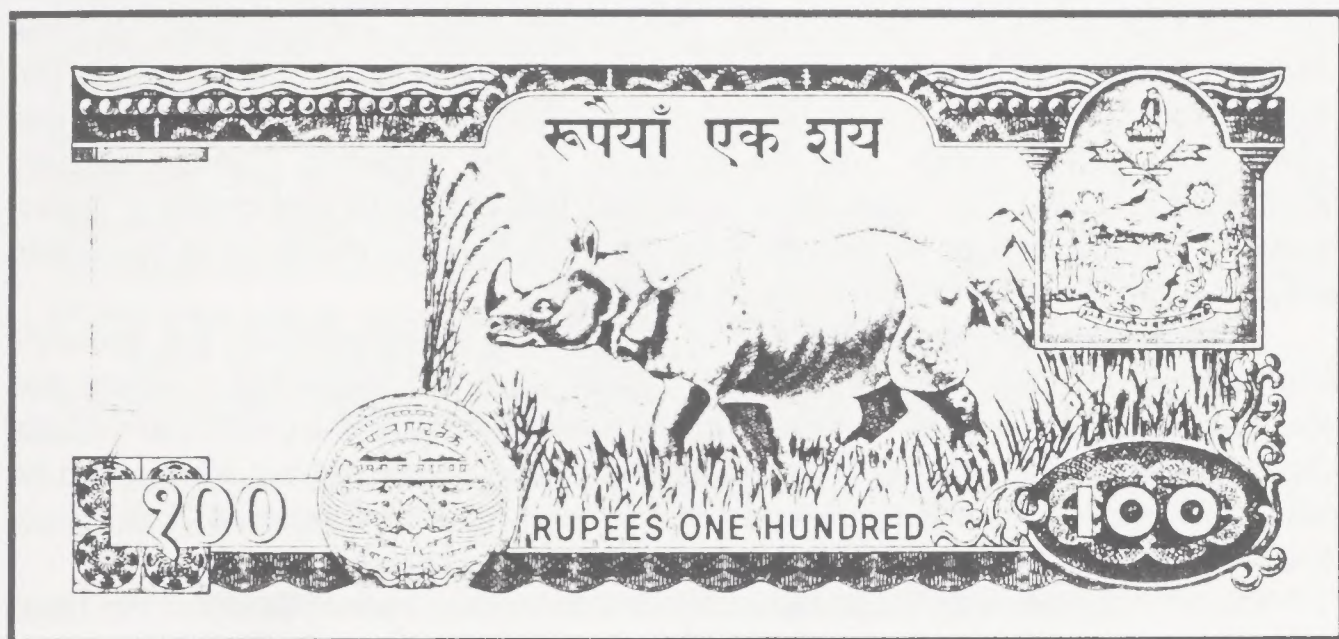
Nepal is inhabited by 18 million people with languages and customs as diverse as the terrain. Tribal groups include Gurung, Limbu, Magar, Newar and Sherpa. The official language, Nepali, is used by 58% of the people, the remainder speaking

Newari and various Indian languages and dialects. Hindu is the official religion and is followed by 90% of the populace while Buddhism (8%) and Islamic (2%) make up the remaining.

King Birendra ascended to the crown in 1975 following the death of his father in 1972. The king is given god-like status by many Nepalese, especially in the impoverished countryside. Astrology is so seriously considered that astrologers have been jailed for predicting the overthrow of the king because he was "under bad stars."

A student of Eton College in England and Harvard University, King Birendra encouraged economic development unsuccessfully. As a result, political crisis ensued in 1975, escalating until a national referendum was called for in 1979 to decide between the existing non-party and a proposed multi-party system. The following year the former achieved 55% of the vote amid speculation of vote rigging. Following the referendum, the constitution was altered to provide for a parliamentary form of government.

In 1989 a dispute with India led to the closure of 12 of the 14 crossing points between the two countries, resulting in shortages of many commodities. A left-wing and Communist reaction was followed by repressing and the jailing of



thousands of activists. Despite a shakeup within the government, the protests continued until the king announced that he would allow the opposition to lead an interim government as well as legalize political parties. Currently, he seems to be leaning toward figurehead status, similar to the British monarchy. It will be interesting to see what the future holds for this novice democracy.

Notes of Nepal are not the sort of thing one will readily find at the foreign exchange desk of your local bank. You will have to go to a dealer to purchase these. The good news is that the face value of the above note is around \$3.50. There are two varieties of the current 100-rupee note, one with a faint line extending down from the king's lip (the example note), retailing for around \$12, and one without the line found in the \$8 range.



THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

Readers of this issue of *The Journal* will no doubt come across an article titled "History of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society" penned by this selfsame Bookworm. A history of the society had been contemplated for some time as a byproduct of our celebration of the PCNS 75th anniversary in 1990. That it could not be completed in time for this event is regrettable. Even so, the project's evolution forms a rather interesting story in itself. At the risk of seeming self-indulgent, I'd like to share some of this saga with the readers in the hope that it may heighten appreciation of the society's rich heritage.

Brief histories of PCNS have been prepared in the past, usually to mark a special occasion such as the annual banquets. These monographs were generally accurate and entertaining, but they suffered from being skeletal and superficial in nature. The real story behind the society's evolution, including both small moments and great, had never been told in depth. As the occasion of the society's 75th anniversary approached, a plan was formulated to correct this oversight and create a lasting souvenir of the occasion. As president during 1988-89, I had the honor of being able to help shape this plan and push for its realization.

Various other proposals were also put forth to commemorate the society's anniversary. Among those which saw fruition were the expanded banquet and souvenir program, the coining of silver and bronze medals and the printing and postal cancelling of souvenir cards. Projects that had been conceived but were not to be realized included a numismatic essay competition for San Francisco high school students and the rolling of elongated coins.

My curiosity stirred by the prospect of a written history, I asked Curator Don Thrall to lend me the society's scrapbooks in the hope that these would provide some inspiration for an ambitious undertaking. For the past several months, he had been bringing PCNS and PPIE memorabilia to the monthly meetings in an effort to build momentum for the upcoming anniversary. The old photographs and clippings retained by the society ranged from the fascinating to the mundane, but enough material was present to justify an illustrated book.

In April 1988, O. L. Wallis submitted his outline for proposed anniversary projects. Among these was a special publication, the exact nature of which was to be decided upon by the board of governors. Considered was an anthology of works by various contributors, a publication similar in concept to what the American Numismatic Association ultimately produced to accompany its two-volume history in 1991. Also suggested was a history of the society's first 75 years. Discussion of these proposals centered around whether the publications would be separate of or integral with *The Journal*.

My own preference was, from the beginning, for a self-contained history of the

society, complete with illustrations and appendices. Among the latter would be a complete listing of all officers and board members 1915-90, a catalog of the former PCNS library now held at the Old San Francisco Mint Museum and a complete inventory of the society's archives. As ambitious as this project sounded, it was not rejected outright by the board, but rather was approved subject to a study of its financial feasibility. At this time, the society was struggling with an ever-declining treasury, owing to an obsolete dues level and the high cost of publishing *The Journal*. Although support for the project was neither unanimous nor strong-willed, enough interest existed for work assignments to be undertaken in July 1988.

Volunteering to read through back issues of the *PCNS Bulletin* and to prepare notes from them was O. L. Wallis. I took the old meeting minutes books with the same intention. These were nearly complete from 1915, although deciphering them would prove to be another matter, as they were frequently in script or consisted of poor quality mimeographs. When our combined research was completed, Dr. Paul Holtzman would prepare the actual manuscript. As president, I set a deadline of January 1, 1990, for the submission of all research notes, a decision which I would personally come to regret.

While the work began, I started to investigate the possible cost of producing a high quality volume in either hard or soft cover. Using as my model a beautiful volume produced a year or two earlier by the Regina Coin Club of Saskatchewan, Canada, I inquired through the club what this project had cost. The answer was not encouraging. While the RCC had received some matching funds for its educational endeavor, the total cost to it of producing *Aspects of the Numismatics of North America* had been \$32,000 Canadian. It was readily apparent that no matter how favorable the exchange rate may have been, this was a great deal more money than PCNS then had or would ever be willing to spend.

Even so, in his letter to me of February 17, 1989, former RCC President and *Aspects* editor Chris Gilboy had some encouraging words:

I was most interested to see that your Society is thinking of publishing something about its long history, and hope that your intentions will be realized before too long. Projects of this kind really challenge an organization's resources, both in manpower and in finances, so it's natural that many members might be reluctant to support it wholeheartedly. Judging from our experience, much depends upon absolute commitment from those who are most involved . . . firmness, enthusiasm, persuasiveness and patience might well be required in limitless amounts to obtain and maintain a majority of your membership in favour of proceeding with your plan . . . publishing a book involves a small fraction of the total membership in an exercise which consumes much of the organization's financial assets.

In an effort to keep the project alive despite the apparently prohibitive cost, alternative forms of publishing were considered. The idea of leaving the books unbound, such binding to be undertaken by purchasers, was rejected. Those board members who continued to have an interest in the concept of a history book were leaning toward a paper cover similar to that used for *The Journal*. However, this and other clues revealed that the governing membership of the PCNS did not now, nor perhaps ever, envision a work of the same scale and complexity as I had been promoting. What was taking shape by the end of 1989 seemed to be little more than an expanded version of the traditional banquet program history. This seemed to me,

as outgoing president and chief proponent of the book project, to be a major setback. Even so, the issue was not quite dead.

Just as the board seemed to be losing the will to continue with the project, the fruits of our labors began to fall from the tree. Mr. Wallis completed his notes taken from the *PCNS Bulletin*, and he presented these to Dr. Holtzman. As for my own role, it was not going quite so smoothly. Preoccupied with the duties of the president and attending to other matters relating to the upcoming anniversary, I had underestimated the amount of time necessary to complete my own notes. As the self-imposed deadline of January 1, 1990, approached, I had gone only as far as 1930 in my interpretation of the meeting minutes. In a moment of anxiety, I called Dr. Holtzman with the suggestion that I pass on to him the minutes for the years 1931 to the present, the proposal being that I would begin the history manuscript for 1915-1930 while he started researching the later years. He assured me, however, that there was no need for this and that he would begin work only when I had completed my notes. Realizing the wisdom of these words, I returned to my work.

During the first six weeks of 1990, the work continued to progress slowly. I had gone only as far as the year 1951 when fortune intervened — I broke my leg. The details of how this came about are better lost to history, but the one positive effect of this incident was that it gave me almost unlimited time to read and write. Being able to do little else, my study of the minutes books proceeded apace, and the entire effort was soon completed.

Feeling flush with this success, I presented an oral history of the PCNS at its March 1990 meeting. While my enthusiasm may not have been shared equally by all present, the talk went reasonably well, and I left hoping that a renewed resolve had been planted within the governing ranks of the society.

I gave a copy of my notes to Dr. Holtzman for his use in preparing a text and then set back to relax a bit in anticipation of the upcoming 75th anniversary banquet. However, as this event drew ever closer, an increasing reluctance to discuss the matter of publishing a book became evident within the PCNS board meetings. The project, now ever more remote from the reality of routine affairs, became something not spoken of, as if it were a wayward child the mention of whose name drew only awkward silence.

In fact, as the memorable June banquet came and went, the issue of producing a book was now quite dead. It died not through the fault of any individual, nor through any conspiracy. It died of its own weight, a weight which bore down upon a board of governors already exhausted from two years of long and difficult business meetings in which the demands of numerous anniversary projects and ongoing financial concerns had led to occasional tense moments. With the actual anniversary now behind them, the officers and board of the PCNS sought a return to routine affairs. The notion of publishing a book had simply become too great an undertaking.

Suspecting this, but not wanting to formally acknowledge defeat, I presented an additional copy of my research to Curtator Don Thrall at the banquet. Afterward, I just bided my time while waiting to see what, if anything, would become of the work that we had done. After a year's time with no further mention of the book project, I approached Editor David Cieniewicz with the idea of running a history of the society serially in *The Journal*. He was in agreement that this could be done, and that history, albeit on a somewhat reduced scale, is now in evidence.

I've undertaken to write the text myself, as I still believe wholeheartedly in the

worthiness of the project. I repeat, it is not to the discredit of any individual that the plan as originally envisioned was not completed. In retrospect, I regret that a serial publication of the society's history in the pages of *The Journal* was not planned from the outset. This could have expedited the project and spared the board many hours of debate and endless uncertainty.

In preparing the text as it will appear in this and future issues of *The Journal*, I have opted to rely solely upon my own research and exploration of the PCNS archives. Due primarily to my own curiosity, I have opted to retread the paths of my fellow researchers. The timely purchase in last September's White Elephant Sale of a long run of the *PCNS Bulletin* largely completed my personal library of PCNS publications, enabling me to cover all of the available sources of information. Facts attributable to this and other specific sources will be noted in the text, with one exception. The greatest single repository of information regarding the history of the PCNS remains the minutes of its many meetings, 1915 to the present. Although not absolutely complete, the minutes books have been the primary source for my research, and the information taken from them is too extensive to attribute in each instance. Therefore, no footnotes will appear referencing the meeting minutes.

I dedicate this work to all the PCNS members who have served the society during its 75+ years and, in particular, to those who have revered its history.



ATTENTION AUTHORS!
DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE JOURNAL
IS
MARCH 1ST

The Syngraphics Scene

Bank Note Company Ephemera

by Ken Barr

One of the definitions of "ephemera", according to my handy dictionary, is "anything short-lived or transitory." (For the record, and for and budding entomologist and/or etymologist reading this column, the other definition is "an ephemerid", which is itself defined as "a May fly" [taken from Neo-Latin (after 1500) stem of Ephemeridae]). For the purposes of this column, the former definition will be used.

To the syngraphist, ephemera is anything issued by, for or about banks, banking houses, bank note printers, issuers of merchant scrip and so forth that had no redeemable or fiscal value at the time of issue. Items issued for the purpose of advertising are the most common examples, although literally thousands of other items are treated as ephemera as well. A syngraphist interested in the banking of San Francisco, for example, would often not only desire fiscal documents of the Wells Fargo Company (i.e., banknotes from the Wells Fargo Nevada National Bank, checks and drafts from this bank, stock certificates from the bank or its parent and the like) but also non-fiscal items such as letters on company letterhead, receipts for freight shipped/received, promotional give-away items, posters, advertisements in newspapers, for example. Proper accumulation and display of this additional material can provide a much fuller understanding of the company, its owners and employees and its day-to-day operations than can be obtained by being limited to using fiscal items alone.

Perhaps the most stunning of all ephemera is that produced by bank note printers. With the in-house capacity for fine engraving, intaglio printing (including color) and a desire to showcase their company's abilities and talents, it is not surprising that many attractive items were produced by these companies solely for the purposes of advertising and business solicitation. Sample sheets, issued in small (8"x11") or broadside (up to 24" x 36") format are known from many of the predecessors of the American Bank Note Company, especially Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson. Originals (usually on tan India paper) in nice condition are quite rare, while reprints made by ABNCo (usually on white card/bond stock) in the 1970s and 1980s are generally available.

As can be expected, other items used by salespersons are quite ornate. Recent ABNCo emissions include booklets on the recognition and detection of counterfeit stock certificates, detection of counterfeit vital records documents (e.g., car titles) corporate annual reports and general advertising brochures. Many of the items issued in recent years demonstrate intaglio printing, microprinting, latent image printing and, if the company can do so, holographic printing. Often it is only in advertising brochures that all of these items are demonstrated on the same document!

Continued on page 29



*American Bank Note Company 1929 Calendar
 from the collection of Ken Barr*



1946 Iowa Statehood
Centennial
Commemorative
Half Dollar:
Part Ten



"Collectors, Too, Buy the Coin"

BANKS AND SALES TO IOWANS

by Michael S. Turrini

This tenth article in this Iowa half dollar series is respectfully dedicated to Harold G. Salas of Vacaville, California, in appreciation of his fellowship and concern expressed to this author over the years and our mutual dedication to the hobby of numismatics.

As this series, and the current miniseries accenting the distribution and sales, progresses to this tenth article, it would be appropriate to explain how Iowans, for whom the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar was intended, actually purchased one. As was reviewed in the previous three articles, the regulations governing the distribution and sales, to both Iowans and non-Iowans, were quite detailed and elaborate. Words cannot express the amount and extent of paper and documents generated by this distribution and sale. One can only imagine how much paper and forms banks with large quotas could have generated.

The primary objective for the half dollars' distribution and sales was "to keep the initial distribution out of the hands of speculators" which "through the banks insures fairness".¹ Related to this motive was a monetary argument: "The Committee believed the premium from Iowa's coin should go intact to the Iowa Centennial Memorial Fund, the proceeds of which will be used to create an enduring memorial to Iowa's first 100 years."²

As has been previously discussed (*The Journal*, April 1990, and *The Journal*, July 1990), Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989), by his Executive Order of January 5, 1949, created the still-existing and actively-functioning Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation. The net proceeds of \$197,585.84 from the half dollars' sales were transferred to the foundation and constituted its original funding.

The main motive, however, was to clarify the distribution and sales. As Frank Warner (1888-1982), long-time executive secretary of the Iowa Bankers Association (IBA), explained to Ralph Evans (1896-1972), chairman of the Iowa Centennial Committee's Sub-Committee on the Coin and Stamp, in transmitting the initial proposals:

You will note that we have included considerable regulations governing the sale of these coins. It seemed to us this was unavoidable because not to have done so would only result in your Committee and the Governor and Mr. Grimes [then Iowa's state treasurer] as well as our office being deluged with letters and phone calls wanting to know how this or that was to be done by the banks.³

In *The Journal*, October 1991, the Iowan banks and IBA were discussed. As was

reported, 650 local banks out of 656 then existing banks participated and cooperated with the distribution plan. This fact was beneficial, since the local banks' "sale was conducted without expense to the State."⁴ To review, each county, 99 total, was allocated a preestablished quota of half dollars based on its 1940 federal census. A total of 90,000 half dollars were initially reserved for lowans only.

Within each county the local bank's particular quota was fixed by the formula of distributing half dollars to each bank on the basis of how its total deposits (less interbank and public deposits) may bear to the total deposits in the same county (less interbank and public deposits).⁵ With this formula, not all the local banks received the same number of half dollars. The Iowa-Des Moines National Bank in Des Moines, Iowa, received the most half dollars at 2,461 followed by the Davenport Bank and Trust Company of Davenport, Iowa, with 2,232. At the opposite extreme, the Central City State Bank of Linn County was quoted only 7 half dollars followed by the Chatsworth Savings Bank in Sioux County with 11. There were three banks with 14 coins compared with six banks with an excess of 1,000.

State Treasurer John M. Grimes instructed the United States Mint in Philadelphia to ship this large mintage of 100,000 in four groups: 30,000 each to The Iowa-Des Moines National Bank, the Central National Bank and Trust Company and the Bankers Trust Company, all then the principal banks in Des Moines and member banks of the Des Moines Clearinghouse Association. It would be from these three Des Moines banks that local banks would receive their quota. The remaining 10,000 half dollars were shipped directly to the state treasurer at his office in the state capitol, 5,000 for out-of-state purchasers and 5,000 in reserve.

Returning to the local banks, it would be from these three Des Moines banks that local banks would receive their quota.

Now that the banks had the half dollars, what were the rules governing their sale and distribution? Assuming each local bank had agreed to cooperate and replied by Thursday, December 12, 1946, to the state treasurer's office, the rules were specific and all itemized in IBA Bulletin #5558, Wednesday, December 4, 1946, from its Executive Secretary Frank Warner.⁶ Mr. Warner followed up with an encouraging reminder, Bulletin #5573, on Monday, December 16, 1946, to those local banks that had "not ordered your quota of Iowa Centennial Coins."

First, "Coins Can Be Purchased by Iowa People From Their Local Banks Only." Bulletin #5558 was quite specific:

These coins will be obtainable by Iowa people living in Iowa from their local bank **only**. If any local bank for any reason does find it convenient to join in handling the sale of these Iowa Centennial Coins, then the prospective buyer should be told to try another bank in his community in his county. The person should **not** write the State Treasurer's office **nor** Iowa Centennial Committee because without question some bank in the local community can be found that will aid the individual to purchase one of these coins.⁷

Second, "Only One Coin To Be Sold To Any One Person." Third, "Purchase Price Of Coins To Persons Living In Iowa—The Purchase Price...Will Be \$2.50 Per Coin Net To The State of Iowa". Fourth, there was a set period that lowans might "apply" to purchase a half dollar-apply, not actually purchase. Again, Bulletin #5558 was very specific:

Beginning Monday Morning, December 16, 1946, and continuing throughout the following business days to and including Saturday, December 21, 1946 (a 6-day period), banks (using Form No. 2) will receive written applications for the purchase

of these coins from their local Iowa people living in their county, and during no other time wither before or subsequent to those dates.

Two additional rules were emphasized. One, a bank's assigned quota could not be exceeded, and unsold half dollars were to be returned to the state treasurer's office. Two, banks could not sell to people living outside Iowa. This rule was defended because it was felt that "Iowa people living in Iowa should have first access to the purchase of these coins".⁸ The state treasurer and Iowa Centennial Committee later announced and handled out-of-state sales.

Each Iowan had to apply in writing in person at his or her local bank during the six days from December 16, 1946, through December 21, 1946. The written application had to be Form No. 2 (shown below). The banks were required to use and reproduce the form "as is or substantively so."

PURCHASERS' APPLICATION FORM

Serial No. _____ (Written applications received by local bank beginning Monday A.M., December 16th, and closing at end of business day, Saturday, December 21st. Incl., 1946)

TO: _____ December _____, 1946

_____ BANK

_____ IOWA

Gentlemen:

Please order from the IOWA TREASURER OF STATE in Des Moines, Iowa, for the undersigned, one COMMEMORATIVE HALF-DOLLAR @ \$2.50 per coin, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the admission of Iowa into Statehood.

I understand that my application for such coin is no guarantee that my order will be filled or can be in view of the fact that there may not be a sufficient quantity of these coins in our county quota to meet the large number of applications that it is anticipated will be made for them. It is my further understanding that your bank reserves the right to prescribe any method of allotting the coins to applicants as may be approved by the IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, the GOVERNOR, and the TREASURER OF STATE.

I hereby certify that I have not and will not make application to any other bank for one of these coins, knowing that it is the desire of the IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, the GOVERNOR, and the STATE TREASURER to make the limited quantity of commemorative half-dollars available to the greatest number of prospective Iowa purchasers.

NAME _____

COUNTY _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

Form 2

Form No. 2 was so important that the IBA had "an initial order of 100,000 copies" printed, and banks could order preprinted ready-to-use forms in quantity. Prices were listed in special Bulletin #5561 attached to Bulletin #5558 (see Figure 2). Apparently most banks replied to this offer for "the response from the Iowa banks to this convenience has been far beyond our expectations."¹⁰

PLEASE NOTE!

TO: IOWA BANKS ADDRESSED:

For the convenience of your Bank, and to expedite your work and give you quantity cost, the IOWA BANKERS ASSOCIATION is prepared to ship you IMMEDIATELY, postage prepaid, as many copies as you may want of FORM NO. 2, "PURCHASERS' APPLICATION FORM" for IOWA CENTENNIAL COINS, at the following quotations:

100 to 400 Inc,	@ \$.65 per 100 copies
500 to 900 Inc.,	@ \$.50 per 100 copies
1,000 and over	@ \$.45 per 100 copies

Below is an order form for your further convenience.

Yours very cordially and sincerely,

FRANK WARNER, Secretary.

(B.#5561-12-4-46)

_____ (Detach Here) _____

Iowa Bankers Association,
430 Liberty Building, December_____, 1946
Des Moines 9, Iowa

Gentlemen:

Enclosed you will find remittance of \$ for copies of
FORM NO. 2 "PURCHASERS' APPLICATION FORM" for IOWA
CENTENNIAL COINS.

BANK
TOWN

Figure 2

As can be read in Form No. 2, each applicant signed knowing that there was "no guarantee that my order will be filled" and that he or she would "not make application to any other bank". Bulletin #5558 preached that Form No. 2 was designed to have each "applicant in writing certify that he has not already applied for or purchased, nor

will he endeavor to purchase directly or indirectly any of these commemorative coins from any other banking institution." All this intended "to obtain the fairest and widest distribution of these commemorative half dollars among Iowa people living in Iowa."¹¹ The banks were further instructed to serial number each form in order of receipt and moreover "suggested that banks keep Form No. 2 for some reasonable period of time" afterwards.¹²

When an Iowan had applied on the appropriate Form No. 2, when did he or she at last purchase the Iowa half dollar? Assuming the bank did not exceed its quota, Monday, December 23, 1946, was designated throughout Iowa and "ahead of Christmas" as "Allotment Day".¹³ On this day, the banks sold only to Iowan applicants one, and only one, half dollar at \$2.50 each.

But, what if a bank had applications in excess of its quota, as was expected? Again, Bulletin #5558 had the answers. Banks could use either the "first-come-first served rule" or a random drawing, determined by each bank itself.

Ever vigilant, the IBA mailed out Bulletin #5578 on Allotment Day, Monday, December 23, 1946, to remind the local banks of the date and to encourage banks within each county to communicate and coordinate among themselves as to surpluses or shortages. The week of Monday to Saturday, December 23-28, 1946, was set aside for this intra-county exchange. Rather than write, banks were asked to telephone "any neighboring bank". Both Frank Warner and Ralph Evans were determined to sell out and remained in regular correspondence with each other during this period.

On Saturday, December 28, 1946, the IBA, ever so dedicated, again communicated with the banks through Bulletin #5579 thanking the banks for their cooperation to date and requesting a referendum on which banks had a surplus or shortage of half dollars.

Although it is not precise as to how many half dollars were sold up to this point in time, the Iowa Centennial Committee reported in its *Report of Activities* that about "85,000 coins were sold to Iowans under the 'one coin per person' limitation." In a letter of December 13, 1946, to Mr. Warner, Ralph Evans informed him that the state treasurer's office had "actual orders with remittances...for more than 82,000 coins". This day is significant for the day before, December 12, was the deadline for banks to participate.

Some 207 banks replied to the aforementioned Bulletin #5579's referendum: 80 banks desiring to purchase half dollars compared to 127 with surplus of halves. These banks were informed through IBA Bulletin #5581 of Friday, January 3, 1947, of which banks had or needed half dollars. The IBA coordinated this inter-bank exchange by communicating which banks to contact each other, after compiling surpluses and shortages from the "Referendum." Needless to say, those banks exchanging half dollars between each other were required to reimburse the price of \$2.50. The IBA went through much work in this statewide exchange by drawing a large map to identify the banks with surplus or need and communicating and coordinating with those respective banks, encouraging more sales and preventing the return of unsold half dollars to the state treasurer's office.

Bulletin #5581 also removed the one-coin-per-person rule, and banks were welcomed in "their coming customary weekly ad in their local newspaper" to advertise that Iowans might purchase more half dollars. It was claimed that when this rule was lifted "an additional 5,000 half dollars has been sold".¹⁴ These two bulletins, #5579

and 5581, were not the end of the IBA's involvement, but the actual period of its participation was fast drawing to a close.

Banks were welcomed "to hold back a reasonable number of these Iowa Centennial Coins to meet any FUTURE requests of their local customers."¹⁵ Again, the banks were reminded that "there NEVER will be NOR can there be another statewide offering of these Iowa Centennial Coins."¹⁶ In addition, banks were urged to use a "novel plan." Banks were welcomed to retain and purchase "an additional reasonable quantity" of half dollars so as to give "one of these coins to every baby born in their county in the year 1947 (the first year of the coming second 100 years of Iowa's statehood)" for which "a savings account with an initial deposit of \$1 or more" is opened.¹⁷ How many banks did this is not known.

Frank Warner's next-to-final communication to Iowa banks was Bulletin #5588, January 15, 1947, which reminded that the date of January 15 was the "last day for refund on unsold centennial coins". Banks had been forewarned of this deadline, and Mr. Warner in this bulletin reported "that comparatively few coins are being returned for refund" due to the prior three weeks having the banks actively interchange surpluses and needs, first within each county and then statewide.

Mr. Warner ended Bulletin #5588 with his proud congratulations:

It seems to us that the Iowa Banks did their full part and did it efficiently and with great distinction and credit to themselves in carrying out the wish and program of the GOVERNOR, the IOWA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, and the TREASURER OF STATE, namely, that all Iowans, in Iowa, who wanted to buy one of these coins should be given the fullest opportunity to do so. President W. H. Benton [of the Iowa Bankers Association] and the other officers of your State Association are proud of the Iowa Banks who handled this job so thoroughly and with such comprehensive satisfaction to all.

The actual final confirmed sales figures through the local Iowan banks during the period of December 23, 1946, the "Allotment Day," through January 15, 1947, would be, months later, tabulated and recorded as 84,414 half dollars sold at \$2.50 each with only 2,884 halves returned from the banks. Mr. Warner contributed one more service: in Bulletin #5596, February 15, 1947, he communicated with his fellow state bank associations of the then 47 other states reporting that "there are less than 4,000 of the coins unsold but orders are continuing to come in for them". Mr. Warner, "in the spirit of cooperation," asked the state banking associations to "make mention of this coin sale...to your member banks."

The out-of-state banks had to pay a price of \$3 per half dollar, which was the non-Iowan price, and direct their orders with remittance directly to the state treasurer's office, whose address was listed. Mr. Warner noted in this bulletin that "an inquiry from a certain large bank in Pennsylvania, for example, wants to know if it can buy 100 of the coins." Neither this bank nor its location were identified. Out-of-state sales will be discussed further in the next article in this series.

As reviewed in the previous articles, the IBA did provide its services in gratis, but not "its actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the Iowa centennial coin sales. This would include such items as telephone, telegraph, postage and the CPA expense."¹⁸ The total itemized expenses, which were reimbursed, were \$296.13, including \$32.15 for toll calls and eight large numbered (in the hundreds) first class mailings including mimeographing at \$98.10. Of course, telephone calls back in 1946 and 1947 were only 5¢ for the first minute, and the mail was delivered fast and on time!

Footnotes and Bibliography on following page.

FOOTNOTES

1. Iowa Centennial Committee, *Report of Activities*, p. 14.
2. *Ibid.*
3. Frank Warner, letter of December 2, 1946, to Ralph Evans.
4. Iowa Centennial Committee, *op. cit.*, p. 13.
5. Frank Warner, memorandum of November 22, 1946. This memorandum addressed to Ralph Evans, *et al.*, transmitted Mr. Warner's initial recommendations that would later be revised as his official communications to the banks.
6. The nearly exclusive references for this article have been the actual Iowa Bankers Association bulletins issued from December 1946 through February 1947, of which Bulletin #5558 is the most significant.
7. Iowa Bankers Association, Bulletin #5558, December 4, 1946. This bulletin was several legal-size pages in length with 750 copies distributed.
8. *Ibid.*
9. Frank Warner, memorandum of December 6, 1946, to Ralph Evans, *et al.*
10. Warner, December 6, 1946, *loc. cit.*
11. Bulletin #5558, *loc. cit.*
12. *Ibid.*
13. This "Allotment Day" was apparently heavily publicized in the media, which the banks were also urged to do.
14. Iowa Centennial Committee, *op. cit.*, p. 14.
15. Bulletin #5558, *loc. cit.*
16. *Ibid.*
17. *Ibid.*
18. Frank Warner letter of February 18, 1947, to Ralph Evans.

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From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston

The Excommunication of Marco Polo— Doge Gradinego's War Against the Pope

In 1298, Marco Polo was captured with the Venetian navy and spent the next year in a Genoese prison. He spent that time dictating his memoirs to a fellow prisoner, thus authoring his Travels, also known as the Description of the World. Marco Polo returned to Venice after the war only to find himself facing excommunication by the Pope a few years later when Doge Gradinego risked all of Venice in a war with the papal armies.

Doge Giovanni Dandolo died on November 2, 1289, shortly after beginning the first gold ducat coinage for Venice. Peter Gradinego was elected to lead the Venetian Republic when the popular candidate, Giacomo Tiepolo, withdrew and left Venice to avoid the election. When a new Doge was announced to the people of Venice, they were expected to cheer their acceptance, but Gradinego's election was greeted with a dead silence that foreshadowed the fortunes of Venice during his reign.

Venice was a city built on international trade. Rising out of the Italian lagoon, it held no significant land and relied on the sea for its wealth. Venice's navy served as both military and merchant fleet, while its merchants occupied major quarters of important towns around the coasts of the Mediterranean, including the regions disputed in the crusades. Venetians traded with all peoples regardless of race or religion—only profit mattered, and the orders of the Pope to end trade with infidels were ignored even during periods of active crusader warfare. In fact, Venice violated a papal ban on warfare between the Crusaders and other Christians when Venice led a crusader force against Constantinople for profit in 1204. Venice's silver *matapan* coinage was first issued in quantity in 1202 to pay for building the fleet to attack Constantinople!

Doge Gradinego inherited Venice at a time of serious economic hardship. In spite of the beginnings of gold coinage at Venice in 1284, Egyptian forces were already recapturing the crusader ports, which included Venetian merchant interests. By 1291, Acre had fallen as the last crusader outpost of Venice, and the forces of Islam blocked Venetian trade routes to the east. The Pope ordered all Christians to have no dealings with the infidels while a new crusade was planned. Venice responded by beginning immediate negotiations with the Sultan for new trade routes. The only alternate route to the Far East was by the Black Sea, controlled by Genoa, an old trading enemy of Venice. Venice and Genoa began drawing up battle lines for the new struggle over this route on which each depended for growing international trade. Preparations for war took three years, and, when both sides met at sea, Venice suffered its first major naval defeat.

Genoa followed up by attacking Venetian merchant ships and capturing their cargoes. Merchants from both republics fought when they met in other cities, and the Emperor at Constantinople arrested the surviving Venetians after one such encounter in the Byzantine capitol.

Venice responded to this apparent alliance between Byzantium and Genoa by sending its remaining fleet to the very walls of Constantinople, destroying every Byzantine or Genoese ship on the way and then attacking Constantinople itself, though superficially. The Emperor paid the Venetians to leave and turned over to them many Genoese as prisoners. Venice felt confident and moved into the Black Sea, but Genoa was prepared for them. The war dragged on several years between the navies of the republics. In one encounter in 1298, Genoa sank or captured 65 of the 95 Venetian ships, capturing 5,000 Venetians, including Marco Polo. He became a writer to while away his year in prison.



Silver Matapan of Doge Gradinego

Meanwhile, Venice sent its remaining navy to attack Genoa's home port. The attack was successful to a point, with the Venetian fleet even setting up a temporary military mint on a ship in the harbor at Genoa to strike Venetian coins in enemy territory! A peace treaty was signed in 1299 without either side gaining from the battles over the years.

Doge Gradinego's war with Genoa ended just in time for the public to focus on a law that he made permanent in that year whereby the right to be elected to the governing council of Venice was made hereditary. This effectively disenfranchised most of the population and prompted the rising upper middle class to turn on him. One ambitious rich man, Marin Bocconio, plotted the murder of the Doge. He and his co-conspirators were unmasked by the Doge's security forces and were hanged in the Piazzetta. The unrest went underground and the bitterness between classes grew for several years—the Doge taking the blame due to the new law and the economic trouble resulting from the Genoese war.

Gradinego's next big mistake came in 1308, when he tried to gain a foothold on the Italian mainland. A disputed inheritance at Ferrara resulted in one side ceding its rights to Venice in exchange for protection while the opposing side called on the Pope for aid. Doge Gradinego and Pope Clement V of Avignon each saw an opportunity to claim Ferrara as new territory. While Venice had troops already at the edge of the disputed city, the Pope had the power of the Church behind him. The Doge claimed possession while the Pope threatened excommunication.

The Doge was given ten days to withdraw or face excommunication of himself and all Venetians who supported him. Gradinego insisted it was a bluff—the Pope would recognize Venice's claim if they persisted. The Pope did not relent, however, but communications were delayed due to foul weather.

In early 1309, the Venetians realized that excommunication and the ban of the Church was too much (having undergone a similar fate 25 years earlier) and sent messengers to the Pope of their acquiescence. Their decision was too late, for the Pope had pronounced excommunication the previous day. The Pope's action prohibited all religious services and ceremonies in Venice, forbade the taking of oaths for any reason, released all persons from all oaths or allegiance to the Doge or Venice and authorized any Christian to confiscate Venetian property anywhere in the world.

and to capture or even enslave any Venetian. All clergy were ordered to leave Venice. The Pope declared a crusade against Venice, which was suddenly at war with the Pope and all of Christendom. Venice's enemies struck immediately, capturing Venetian property, ships, citizens, and goods wherever they could be found undefended or inadequately defended.

Venice had one reason to hope for survival—their previous defiance of the Pope in 1297. They had ignored papal orders prohibiting trade with the Sultan. Venice's treaty with the Sultan provided them with trade routes and safe contacts beyond Christian Italy and Byzantium.

Venice held Ferrara, but papal troops surrounded them and pestilence broke out in the garrison. Once weakened, the Venetian fortress was stormed and the defenders were blinded and enslaved or slain—only a handful escaped. The news reached Venice and the Doge was blamed for the disastrous defeat. Venice had lost Ferrara along with most of her possessions throughout the world. There was no longer

any chance of winning against the Pope, nor was there anything left to win. The Doge had no popularity left to lose, but the Doge of Venice ruled until his death—there was no process to remove a Doge from office.



Silver coin of Pope Clement V of Avignon

Venice became the scene of street fighting, riots and assassinations among the various factions. The government issued laws against carrying arms, which only inflamed the citizenry. When one of the nobility was punished for violating the new law against weapons being carried on the street at night, his relatives turned on the Doge with a plot for his removal.

An attack by land and water on the Doge's palace was planned from at least three directions with hundreds of willing troops. The date, June 15, was picked, but the Doge got wind of the plot well in advance and took countermeasures. Further confounding the conspirators, a large storm blew into the lagoon and made it impossible for the water-based forces to attack, but, right on schedule, the horse soldiers entered the piazza and found themselves surrounded by the Doge's forces. The other mounted leader stopped to gather his forces when he realized things were not going as planned. As his force reached the entrance to the piazza they hesitated long enough for an old woman to push a stone block out of a window, killing their standard-bearer. They retreated when their standard fell, and the Doge's men won the day. The conspirators were beheaded when caught, but one leader entrenched himself and was granted the option of exile rather than risk continued civil war on the island. The homes of the conspirators were destroyed along with all records and monuments that contained their family crests.

The old woman who had killed the standard-bearer of the conspirators was granted the right to fly the Venetian banner from her window and her rent was never to be raised. More than 150 years later her descendants still had her original rent, and a plaque was erected on the spot in 1841.

The Doge responded to the unrest still shaking Venice by creating the Council of Ten to control unrest and suppress opposition. This council became permanent but eventually was incorporated into the Doge's government with some controls. It was hoped that the Council of Ten could take rapid action to avoid the slowness of



decisions that had caught Venice facing papal excommunication over Ferrara.

Doge Pietro Gradinego died in 1311, leaving Venice slowly recovering from the papal wrath and civil war. When the electors picked a new Doge, their candidate fled to a monastery to avoid the honor. The council then opened their council chamber window and watched for a likely person to appear on the street. The elderly Marino Zorzi was thus elected almost by chance. He died within a year and the next Doge was selected only after the council declared that the windows must be closed until they reached a decision!

During his 26 years as Doge, Gradinego warred with Genoa and lost most of the Venetian fleet, disenfranchised the citizenry of Venice, warred with the Pope and thereby had all citizens of Venice excommunicated. He survived several

assassination attempts and imposed repressive measures to avoid future plots. Though Venice was in financial trouble when he inherited it, he managed to make it incredibly worse until the nobility wanted him killed. The government was left almost to chance when he died, yet Venice welcomed the change.

The lasting monuments to his reign are his coinage and the writings of Marco Polo. Marco Polo died 13 years after Gradinego and was buried in a sarcophagus which was lost when the church was rebuilt in 1592.

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HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

by David W. Lange

Prelude

It is ironic that, despite the wealth of numismatic material to come from California and the West, no attempt to form an organization devoted to the study of such items was made before 1915. The unofficial gold coinage of assaying and banking firms such as Moffatt & Co., Norris, Gregg & Norris and Wass, Molitor & Co. and the officially sanctioned products of the United States Assay Office of Gold had for some time been eagerly sought by numismatists in the eastern part of the nation. While there were a few collectors of record in the San Francisco area prior to 1915, by and large the majority of persons holding such items of historic interest were the descendants of pioneers for whom these coins had merely been money.

By the turn of the century, even those having the least perception of numismatics had become aware that these early provisional pieces had value in excess of their bullion content, even if this premium was perceived as being primarily sentimental. This was the San Francisco of 1906 in which noted numismatist Farran Zerbe found himself during the course of his cross-country exploration of the numismatic backroads. He had recently settled the affairs of the coin and medal concession at the Lewis and Clark Exposition and now paused in the former gold rush city of St. Francis to call on brother numismatists J.C. Lighthouse and August Reimers.

In the course of his stay, Zerbe probed the collective memory of San Francisco Mint employees in an attempt to answer the mysteries surrounding such rarities as the 1873-S silver dollar and the 1894-S dime. Unfortunately, the results of his inquiries, if any, were not published.¹ What is known is that he took time to view the coin collection of the Society of California Pioneers which had for some years been displayed at the Mint. The highlight of this collection was a rare silver dollar of 1804. It, like most of the coins in the exhibit, had been donated by Dr. Charles Spiers, a pioneer of 1849.

Zerbe, who was not one to suffer fools lightly, declared the Spiers dollar to be "a counterfeit or fake." Of the collection as a whole, he considered it "a very poor exhibit and menacing to numismatics when inspected by the intelligent." The catalogue that accompanied this collection, penned by Dr. Spiers himself in 1877, "is a monument to numismatic ignorance."²

Even for one whose life was forever beset with coincidence, it must have come as quite a shock to Farran Zerbe when he was shaken from his bed in the early hours of April 18, 1906. Although he had been planning to depart within a day or two, the spectacular nature of the earthquake and of the conflagration that followed compelled Zerbe to linger and observe the devastation. In any case, transportation out of the city was at a premium and he did have acquaintances for whose well-being he was concerned.

In fact, his very presence in San Francisco was responsible for the survival of one collector's holdings. Mr. Lighthouse, who normally stored his coins in a vault within one of the downtown banks, had removed the collection to his home for Zerbe's

inspection. At the time, neither could have imagined that the hours spent amid good cigars and pleasant conversation would result in the sparing of so many precious items. When fire swept through the center of San Francisco taking all of the banking institutions with it, the J.C. Lighthouse collection was within his home where it could be hurriedly assembled and spirited away to safety.

Witnessing the phenomenal destruction, Zerbe mourned the loss of what must have been many territorial gold pieces and their accompanying historical documentation. He regretted that neither he nor some other numismatist had been able to fully record the treasures that the city had formerly held. He could, at least, take some comfort in the saving of the U.S. Mint, which had been protected from the fire all around through the valiant efforts of Superintendent Frank Leach and his employees. While this meant that the unesteemed collection of coins housed within the Mint had also survived to further mislead future generations, the structure and its bullion assets were to become essential in restoring the city's financial stability during the coming months. Several years would pass before Zerbe again encountered the dreaded coin collection of the Society of California Pioneers, but this time he did so as the founder of an organization devoted to numismatic knowledge and fellowship.

Beginnings

Meeting at Springfield, Massachusetts, in August 1914, attendees of the American Numismatic Association's Annual Convention were asked to vote upon the selection of San Francisco as the site for the following year's gathering. It had been informally agreed that this would be a desirable location, as the western city was hosting the Panama-Pacific International Exposition during 1915. Previous conventions at Chicago in 1893 and at St. Louis in 1904 had been held to coincide with world's fairs, and this was seen as both an attraction for convention goers and a means of unloading burdensome family members who might otherwise interfere with one's enjoyment of the convention.

A temporary setback was experienced when the members present at Springfield voted nine in favor of San Francisco and 21 against. In an age before air travel, California was considered only slightly more accessible than it had been in 1849. Alternate locations were put forth by the mostly eastern attendees, and the matter was ultimately referred to the board of governors.³

How this matter was resolved is not recorded, but there can be no doubt that the influence of Farran Zerbe was put to bear. Zerbe was once again managing the coin and medal concession at the PPIE, and he no doubt intended that his primary customers for such items would be there in force. The board did return a favorable decision for San Francisco, although announcement of this did not appear until the May 1915 issue of *The Numismatist*.

Having committed the ANA to San Francisco as the site for its 1915 convention, Farran Zerbe now had to create a convention committee that could make the necessary arrangements. This responsibility usually fell upon the local numismatic society or coin club of which there was nearly always one or more in the eastern and mid-western cities to which the ANA was accustomed. Alas, no such organization had ever existed west of the Mississippi River. It was up to Zerbe to form one, promptly.

Already familiar with some of the established collectors in San Francisco, Zerbe needed to find the one individual who could take charge of this group of numismatists and form them into a cohesive body. He found this individual in the person of Irving

Leland Steinman. Very little is known of Mr. Steinman other than that his office was located in the Hooker & Lent Building at 503 Market Street in San Francisco where a circa-1970 highrise now stands. Steinman, the early minutes suggest, was younger than most of his fellow numismatists and possessed considerable organizational ability. It was he who, in June 1915, sent out notices to known San Francisco collectors announcing that a meeting was to be held at his office on the 17th for the purpose of creating a coin club.

Present for this preliminary gathering were Alfred Twitchell, Basil Brandon, A. Reimers, M. L. Miles, Charles F. Cox, A. C. Nygren and Farran Zerbe. Present also was, of course, I. Leland Steinman who was named temporary chairman.

Upon motion of Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Reimers, it was unanimously carried that those present desired to form themselves into a permanent organization. Upon Mr. Zerbe's motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, it was voted that a formal meeting be called for June 24. At this meeting, by-laws and rules of order would be presented, along with the election of officers and the determination of a name for the organization.

Again, Steinman sent out, at his own expense, postcard notices of the first formal meeting. Among those who became charter members were Joseph Barnet, Alfred Twitchell, Rudolph Harmon, Basil Brandon, A. C. Nygren, A. Reimers, H. L. Hill, Fred T. Huddart, Farran Zerbe and I. Leland Steinman. Names proposed for the "coin society" included San Francisco Coin Club⁴, Golden West Coin Society, California Numismatic Society and Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. Mr. Steinman's motion that the latter name be selected was approved unanimously.

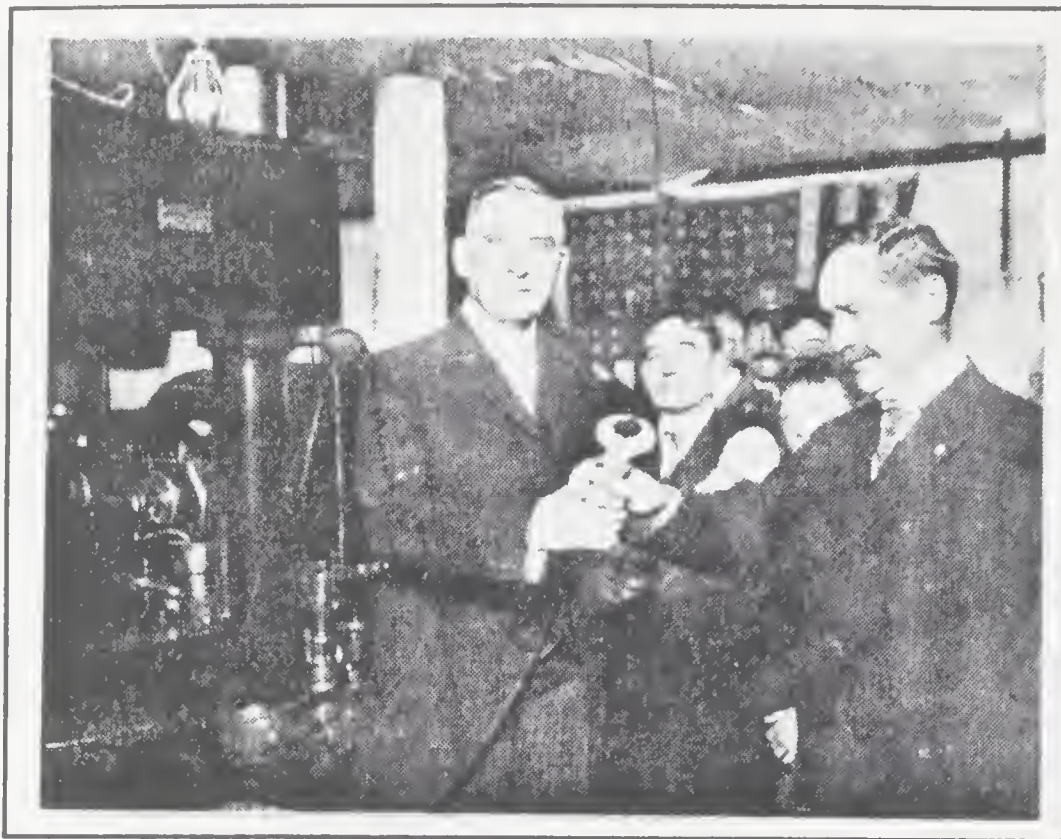
The results of the first election of officers were as follows:

President	Fred T. Huddart
Vice-President	Arthur C. Nygren
Secretary-Treasurer	I. Leland Steinman
Curator	Farran Zerbe
Board of Governors	A. Reimers
	Basil Brandon
	Alfred Twitchell
	H. L. Hill

The assembly of a fully-staffed numismatic society upon such short notice was aided, no doubt, by the provident occurrence earlier in the month of a highly publicized gathering. The striking of the first \$50 gold pieces in commemoration of the PPIE could not occur without considerable ceremony, and a number of numismatic notables and public figures were present at the San Francisco Mint on the morning of June 15, 1915, to witness this historic action. Among those invited to strike one each of the first 30 pieces were Zerbe, Huddart and Steinman.

With the PCNS firmly established, preparations were undertaken for the upcoming convention of the ANA. In the pages of *The Numismatist*, readers were urged to make their hotel accommodations early by contacting Messrs. Zerbe or Huddart, as the convention was expected to draw a record attendance. This estimation proved optimistic, as events at Springfield should have suggested. In fact, attendance at the August 30-September 1 convention did set a record — a record low. A total of twelve persons was officially registered at the convention, although photographic evidence reveals that additional members and guests were present.

Despite this disappointing turnout, there were still business matters and activities



First Striking of the Octagonal \$50 PPTE Commemoratives

San Francisco Mint, June 15, 1915

T.W.H. Shanahan, Supt. of the S.F. Mint, left

Charles C. Moore, President PPTE, right

to pursue. In the absence of the association's president and vice-president, meetings were called to order by Board Chairman H. O. Granberg of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Other non-locals present were Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Henderson, Edgar H. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. B. Max Mehl and F. J. Loer. From the San Francisco Bay area, attendees included PCNS members Farran Zerbe, I. Leland Steinman, August Reimers, Arthur C. Nygren and Fred T. Huddart.

Holding sufficient proxies to conduct business, the convention proceeded under the direction of Chairman Granberg who concluded the proceedings with the following acknowledgement: "Much of the success of this convention is due to the untiring efforts of ex-president Farran Zerbe, chief of the official Coins and Medals Department of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Owing to his official relations with the Exposition and Association he was able to completely supplement the detail work for entertainment."⁵

Among the numerous activities that fell under the heading of entertainment was, of course, a visit to the exposition. This was undertaken on the last day of the convention, September 1. During the course of their annual gathering, members of the ANA and their guests were treated to several dinners and other social affairs. Among these was an automobile tour of San Francisco arranged by the reception committee of PCNS for Sunday afternoon, August 29. The usual tourist attractions were included, much to the delight of out-of-towners.

Perhaps the most memorable gathering was a guided tour of the San Francisco Mint, led by Superintendent T. W. H. Shanahan and Chief Coiner Kearny. This occasion, August 31, 1915, was captured in the following photograph, taken at the



Official ANA Convention Photograph, August 31, 1915

Front Row, left to right: Miss Mehl, Mrs. Mehl, B. Max Mehl, Farran Zerbe, L.W.H. Shanahan (Supt.), Mrs. Adams, H.O. Granbery, Mrs. Doyle.

Middle Row, center to right: A.C. Nygren, Mrs. Henderson, J.M. Henderson, Edgar H. Adams, E.J. Loer

Back Row, left to right: I. Leland Steinman, George C. Arnold, Fred T. Huddart, H.L. Hill, A. Reimers, R.B. Moore, Fred Joy, Albert H. Doyle

main entrance on Fifth Street.

With the ANA Convention concluded, the members of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society would soon face a new challenge — that of keeping alive the initial enthusiasm that led to the society's founding. Several obstacles would soon present themselves, among these the deaths of President Fred T. Huddart and Secretary I. Leland Steinman. The latter would be particularly missed, as he had been the key mechanism through which the organization functioned. These formative years in the society's evolution will provide the next installment in this history of the PCNS.

Footnotes

1. *The Numismatist*, August 1906.
2. *Numismatic Bulletin of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*, September 1950.
3. *The Numismatist*, October 1914.
4. This name would be proposed again in 1951 and, ultimately, be adopted by another club in 1960.
5. *The Numismatist*, October 1915.



Syngraphics, continued from page 10

Other items included in bank note printer ephemera include letterheads (the older ones often using up to half of the paper with elaborate vignettes), calendars, business cards and small sample cards given away at conventions or trade shows. The serious (and casual!) syngraphist must remain ever vigilant at antique shows, paper collectibles shows, book stores and similar places as often these items are tucked away in files, folders or binders of junk paper that otherwise hold no interest.

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MEDALS ROUND-UP



SAN FRANCISCO COIN CLUB

The San Francisco Coin Club has released its 1991 medal. The medal depicts the earthquake-damaged Embarcadero Freeway in front of the San Francisco Ferry Building.



Specifications

Minted by Masterpiece Medallions, Claremont, CA.

Designed by: Obverse — Ron Johnson
Reverse — SFCC logo

Diameter: 39mm round

Mintage: Silver (.999, 1oz.) 100
Oxidized Bronze 100
Lead 1

Ordering Information: A limited number of medals are currently available for \$20 per set (silver and bronze), plus \$2 postage. Make checks to San Francisco Coin Club (or SFCC). Send orders to SFCC Medals Chariman, P. O. Box 2698, Redwood City, CA 94064.

SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS EXONUMIA

by Jerry F. Schlommel

The Fairmont Hotel

Just after World War II the Fairmont Hotel employed a type of credit card that would be unusual today. The obverse reads **FAIRMONT HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO** and shows the emblem or coat-of-arms of the hotel in use since it opened in 1907. The reverse has a view of the Golden Gate Bridge, below which is the date **1947** in raised numerals. A rectangular blank at the bottom provides space for striking the customer's account number. Made of a nickel alloy, the piece is 32mm in diameter with a plain edge.



The specimen shown has no hole, but others with such exist, presumably for their attachment to key chains. Another unholed specimen has no date and Kappen lists one with the year 1949. All are of the same size and metal as the one illustrated.

According to the hotel management, the "cards" were used only in 1946 and 1947 after which they were discontinued because too many customers were losing them. Presumably the 1949 specimens were never placed in use. The evidence points to the possible existence of a 1948 type.

Sources:

Fairmont Hotel Public Relations Office, correspondence from E.W. Kracher, October 25, 1982
San Francisco Almanac by Gladys Hanson (1980)
California Tokens by Charles Kappen (1976)



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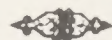


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